

LOWER BIG BLUE NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT
BOARD MEETING
July 11, 2024, 8:30 A.M.

Notice of the meeting was published in accordance with Section 84-1411, Nebraska Statutes, in the Beatrice Daily Sun and the Wilber Republican. Notice was also sent to Radio Station KWBE, Crete News, and Fairbury Journal-News. In accordance with the Nebraska Open Meetings Act, the Open Meetings Act is posted on the east wall of the meeting room for public viewing.

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Larry Barta at 8:30 a.m.

Directors Present: Larry Barta, Ryan Birkett, Steve Kelley, Bob Lorenz, Duane Parde, Jason Pohlmann, Dean Roehr, Rodney Skleba, Jason Sand, Doug Stokebrand, Chad Weichel.

Staff Present: Scott Sobotka, Manager; Tyler Weishahn, Assistant Manager; Adam Kimmerling, Office Administrator; Nick Schroeder, GIS/IT/Technical Specialist, Brandy Scholl, NRD Secretary Ryan Thomas, Resources Specialist, Scott Thies, Operations Supervisor.

Directors Absent: Brent Katz, Darrell Rains

Others Present: James Libal

CONSIDERATION OF EXCUSED ABSENCES

Brent Katz, has requested to be excused from the July 11th board meeting.

MOTION #1 was made by Doug Stokebrand, seconded by Steve Kelley, to excuse Brent Katz from the July 11th board meeting.

YEA: Barta, Kelley, Lorenz, Parde, Pohlmann, Roehr, Sand, Skleba, Stokebrand, Weichel. **NAY:** Birkett **ABSTAIN:** None.

APPROVAL OF JULY 11, 2024, CONSENT AGENDA

MOTION #2 was made by Doug Stokebrand, seconded by Duane Parde, to adopt the Consent Agenda for the July 11, 2024, board meeting which includes: adoption of the agenda as submitted, approval of the June 13, 2024, meeting minutes, financial status report dated June 30, 2024, June 2024 bills payable, June 2024 revenues, monthly bank account summary and Beatrice West and Wymore Rural Water Financials. Motion carried.

YEA: Barta, Birkett, Kelley, Lorenz, Parde, Pohlmann, Roehr, Sand, Skleba, Stokebrand, Weichel. **NAY:** None. **ABSTAIN:** None.

OPEN PUBLIC COMMENTS

James Libal addressed the Board on behalf of the landowner of Wolf Wildcat 51 asking that the trees be removed from the structure.

HAY LAND BIDS

Scott reviewed hay land bids received for maintenance. 12 bids were received for 8 of the 9 areas. High bids totaled \$20,701.18

MOTION #3 was made by Jason Pohlmann, seconded by Rodney Skleba, to accept the high bid received for each area. Motion carried.

YEA: Barta, Birkett, Kelley, Lorenz, Parde, Pohlmann, Roehr, Sand, Skleba, Stokebrand, Weichel. **NAY:** None **ABSTAIN:** None.

INFORMATION & EDUCATION COMMITTEE REPORT

Scott spoke about State range judging. The committee has voted not to transition to the use of scantrons.

Chad reviewed the minutes from the Information & Education committee meeting held July 2nd. The committee heard proposals for web design from three firms, Unanimous, Kevin Brown Design and RedThread. Discussion was held on the proposals.

MOTION #4 was made by Dean Roehr, seconded by Duane Parde, to accept the proposal from RedThread for \$16,296.84. Motion carried.

YEA: Barta, Birkett, Kelley, Lorenz, Parde, Pohlmann, Roehr, Sand, Skleba, Stokebrand, Weichel. **NAY:** None **ABSTAIN:** None.

FY 2025 BUDGET

Scott reviewed items which have been updated in the FY 2025 budget.

Scott recommended that the Budget Hearing be set for September 19th at 8:30 A.M., with the Levy and Property Tax Request Hearing immediately following the Budget Hearing.

MOTION #5 was made by Doug Stokebrand, seconded by Steve Kelley, that the district hold a public hearing for the proposed FY 2025 budget with a public hearing for the 2025 Levy and Property Tax Request immediately following on September 19th at 8:30 A.M. at the LBBNRD office, with the NRD board meeting to follow and that legal notices for said public hearings be published once on or before September 12, 2024 in the Beatrice Daily Sun, Crete News, Fairbury Journal News and Pawnee Republican. Motion carried.

YEA: Barta, Birkett, Kelley, Lorenz, Parde, Pohlmann, Roehr, Sand, Skleba, Stokebrand, Weichel. **NAY:** None **ABSTAIN:** None.

WATER COMMITTEE REPORT

Tyler updated the Board on efforts to find additional funding for flow meter cost share including an application for NRCS Regional Conservation Partnership Funding, Bureau of Reclamation Grant, and the Water Resources Cash Fund.

Tyler summarized the recent AEM flights. Due to fuel and mobilization savings from combined projects, an additional 94 line miles were flown, in total 525 miles were flown.

Discussion was held on the proposed groundwater rules and regulations. Duane Parde submitted a letter to the Board with his comments on the proposed rules.

NRD ACTIVITIES

Recently, there was a large fish kill at Big Indian. Nebraska Game and Parks has attributed this to clear water and high temperatures causing a large algal growth. Subsequent cooler temperatures caused the growth to die, resulting in depleted oxygen levels.

Scott Theis discussed recent damage to the guard rail at Big Indian. The individual responsible has been billed by the NRD for the required repair.

Pictures of newly constructed playgrounds at Willard Meyer and Cub Creek were shown.

Scott told the Board that he has been asked to attend the Gage County Planning and Zoning meeting on August 15th. The expansion of the Beatrice Wellhead Protection Area will be discussed.

Scott reviewed NARD Hall of Fame nominations with the board.

HUSKER HARVEST DAYS

Scott asked for volunteers to attend Husker Harvest Days to work in the NARD booth. Three Directors expressed interest in attending.

MOTION #6 was made by Larry Barta, seconded by Rodney Skleba, to authorize per diem and expenses for Bob Lorenz, Steve Kelley and Jason Sand to work at Husker Harvest Days one day. Motion carried.

YEA: Barta, Birkett, Lorenz, Parde, Pohlmann, Roehr, Skleba, Stokebrand, Weichel.

NAY: None **ABSTAIN:** Kelley, Sand.

NRD 414(h) Resolution

The NARD board voted on June 10th to increase the required employee contribution from 5.5% to 6.5% with NRD match increasing from 6% to 7% effective January 1, 2025.

MOTION #7 was made by Doug Stokebrand, seconded by Steve Kelley, to authorize the Chairman to sign the resolution. Motion carried.

YEA: Barta, Birkett, Kelley, Lorenz, Parde, Pohlmann, Roehr, Sand, Skleba, Stokebrand,

Weichel. **NAY:** None **ABSTAIN:** None.

AGENCY REPORTS

NRCS

A report was distributed to the directors.

EXTENSION OFFICE

No Report

NRC

Steve reported their next meeting will be in Kearney August 14th. Water Sustainability Fund Applications will be awarded at that meeting.

NARD

Steve reported that they have not met since the last meeting.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

- | | |
|--|---|
| a. July 11 th | Board of Directors Projects Tour |
| b. July 17 th -19 th | GMDA Conference -- Omaha |
| c. August 22 nd or 29 th | NRD Board Meeting |
| d. August 14 th | NRC Meeting, Kearney – WSF Grant Award Announcement |
| e. August 26 th – 28 th | Manager’s Meeting |
| f. September 2 nd | Labor Day |
| g. September 19 th | NRD Board Meeting |

Being no further business, Chairperson Larry Barta adjourned the meeting at 10:04 a.m.

Secretary, Jason Sand

I, the undersigned, Secretary of the Lower Big Blue Natural Resources District, hereby certify that these are true and correct minutes of the meeting of the Board of Directors of the District held July 11, 2024, that all of the subjects discussed at the meeting were contained in the agenda for the meeting, kept continually current and readily available for public inspection at the principal office of the District during normal business hours, and except for items of an emergency nature, the agenda was not altered later than twenty-four (24) hours before the scheduled commencement of the meeting; that at least one copy of all reproducible material discussed at the meeting was available at the meeting for examination and copying by members of the public; that the minutes were in written form and available Lower Big Blue NRD Board of Directors Meeting July 11, 2024 for public inspection within ten working days and prior to the next convened meeting for said body; and that all news media requesting notification of the meeting of said body were provided advance notification of the time and place of said meeting and the subjects to be discussed at said meeting.